

# PELECANUS SINENSIS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* rectum : apice adunco, unguiculato.

*Nares* rima oblitterata.

*Facies* nudiuscula.

*Pedes* æquilibres: digitis omnibus quatuor simul palmatis.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PELECANUS supra fuscus, subtus albidus fusco maculatus, gula alba, iridibus cæruleis, cauda rotundata.

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In genere Pelecano nonnullæ sunt aves quæ ad exercendam artem piscatoriam dominis quæstuosam ali possint et institui. A Sinensibus deductus est mos, indeque reversi non ita pridem legati Britannici certiores fecere Europæos de specie qua utuntur ii ad hoc opus educata: illa nempe, quæ anserina quasi magnitudine, corpore tamen tenuior, si colores excipias, *graculo* et *carboni* pelecanis non longe est absimilis.

Quando piscari volunt Sinenses, aves multas levibus in scaphis imponunt, quæ ad nutum domini cum in aquas se projecerint, parvo temporis spatio pisces

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rostris

rostris arreptos in cymbam deferunt; nec annulo collari opus est ne forte prædam deglutiant (sine quo apud Europæos nunquam committitur *carboni* res piscatoria) adeo enim disciplinæ et imperiis assueverunt dociles Sinensium pelecani, ut si prædæ aliquod iis dispartitum fuerit, satis id putent ad laboris remunerationem.

Auctor est Dominus Stantonus, qui librum nuperime edidit de moribus Sinensium, conspici posse in nonnullis lacubus millia multa scapharum, unde mirum hoc piscaturæ genus ab avibus peragitur.





THE  
CHINESE PELICAN.



*GENERIC CHARACTER.*

*Bill* long, strait, hooked at the end.

*Nostrils* small, in an obscure furrow.

*Face* naked.

*Toes* all four united by a web.

*SPECIFIC CHARACTER.*

Brown PELICAN, with white throat, the body whitish beneath and spotted with brown ; the tail rounded ; the irides blue.

*Staunton's Chinese Embassy*, 2. p. 388.

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The art of training some particular species of this genus to the practice of fishing for the profit of their owners appears to have originated among that industrious people the Chinese, who are in the habit of turning every object to as much advantage as possible. It was not however till the period of the late embassy to China that the real species used for this purpose became known to Europeans. The bird is about the size of a common goose, but is of a thinner form, and resembles, except in colour, the European Shag and Corvorant. When used for fish-

ing, these birds are carried in small boats, and, at a signal given, plunge into the water, and soon return with the prey in their mouth, requiring no ring round the neck, to prevent their swallowing it, as is the practice in Europe when the Cormorant is sometimes used for a similar purpose; the Chinese fowl being so well trained as to require only the encouragement of part of their prey. We are informed by Sir George Staunton, in his account of the late Embassy, that on some of the Chinese lakes may be seen thousands of small boats destined entirely to this curious species of fishery.